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Bolivian Denies Visit Is Linked to Barbie

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, March 30 — Bolivia's Presi-

Around the World

dent, Hernán Siles Zuazo, said today that his visit to France was not linked to his country's decision to hand Klaus Barbie, the accused Nazi war criminal, to French authorities.

"I have noted repeated reports concerning a presumed relationship between my visit and the expulsion of Klaus Barbie from my country," said Mr. Siles Zuazo, who on Monday placed a wreath at the Panthéon in honor of Jean Moulin, the Resistance leader who was Mr. Barbie's most famous victim.

"There is no relationship whatsoever between the two facts," the Bolivian President said at a news conference here. "The expulsion of Barbie took place in the exercise of Bolivian sovereignty."